

January 12, 2019

# Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition 2018 Year In Review

## **General CFMC Info –**

The Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition started in August 2011 with six local churches. Today our numbers include 18 local churches of various denominations and more than 20 local non-profit agencies.

We meet once a month, normally on the first Monday of the month at various locations. Our meetings start at 5:00 pm and end promptly at or before 6:00 pm.

At our meetings we always focus on what we have in common, which is our belief in God and the lives He expects us to live, guided by the Holy Spirit, being the hands and feet of Christ. We never dwell on what separates us.

Our meetings start with a general prayer and end with all of us holding hands and reciting the Our Father/Lord's Prayer.

Our goal is to work together on local and global mission outreach, often helping each other with our individual mission projects. We try to stay pro-active in our community, reaching out and asking where help is required for those in need.

Our Mission Statement and Bible Verse are as follows ...

**CFMC Mission Statement:** "Faithful people joining hearts and hands to be God's Love in action for our neighbors near and far."

**CFMC Bible Verse:** Psalm 60:12 -- "With God's help we will do mighty things."

Here is a look of a number of things we have been involved with this past year...

-- **MISSION PROJECTS OF THE CFMC IN 2018** --

**\* Tiny Houses/Hope Village Mission for the Homeless (On Going)**

Tiny Houses/Hope Village was established in January 2016 as a mission of the CFMC to provide temporary housing for the homeless. This mission is spearheaded by Mike Cohoon from Landmark Christian Church along with a core group of volunteers.

We currently have five “year-round” Tiny Houses and one “Camper” Tiny House that is available during the warmer months.

They are currently set up at the following sites ... Landmark Christian Church, Trinity United Methodist Church and Chippewa Valley Bible Church. We also have been cleared to place two more Tiny Houses at Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church in the future.

**At some point we would like to have a central location for all the Tiny Houses, which would be called Hope Village. Our goal is raise \$100,000 to create Hope Village. We currently have more than \$70,000 toward that goal.**

**We have recently become involved with Sold4U Auctions in Hallie to raise additional funds through the sale of donated items.**

In addition, we currently have funds set aside to build three more Tiny Houses and hope to do so in 2019.

We have also set aside funds for 15 nights of motel shelters for those that are prospective Tiny House guests.

There is also an additional \$500 set aside to be used for guest needs such as share rides, phone cards, groceries and emergency items.

**In 2018 Tiny Houses provided 1,572 nights of shelter. Based on the average cost of \$70 for a motel run, we saved the community more than \$110,000.**

We served 16 guests in 2018. Of those 16 ... nine found permanent housing, three found other housing, three are still guests and 1 left due to non-compliance with the Tiny House guidelines.

**Since it's inception in 2016 we have provided 2307 nights of shelter for a total of 30 guests. Again, based on the average motel cost of \$70, that's a savings to the community of \$161,490.**

Here's the story of Heather, one of our past Tiny House guests ...

*Heather found a Hope Village tiny house much more comfortable than sleeping in her automobile. Heather was able to use the church address as a mailing address making her job hunt easier.*

*Living in a Tiny House with the support of her Life Coach allowed Heather to attend a number of meetings with various social agencies that could point her to the resources she needed.*

*Heather was able to secure a better paying job that allowed her to move into permanent housing at the Landings Apartments. Heather has become involved with Jacobs Well church, has met many new friends there and is really feeling like things have stabilized for her, she looks forward to giving back.*

For more information about Tiny Houses/Hope Village or to make a contribution to this mission contact Mike Cohoon or go to the Tiny House Hope Village website ... [www.hopevillagechippewafalls.com](http://www.hopevillagechippewafalls.com)

-----  
\* **"Lighten Your Load" Laundry Mission (On Going)**

"Lighten Your Load" laundry mission was started in Oct. 2015 as a test mission project.

We learned that people were throwing away dirty clothes and going to various local agencies to get fresh used clothes because they couldn't afford to wash their old clothes.

It seems when you are on a limited budget things like food, rent, heat, electricity and medicine receive higher priority than washing clothes.

“Lighten Your Load” has filled that need for clean clothes with Gayle Klitzke from Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church spearheading this CFMC mission along with a core group of volunteers.

Also, a special “Thank You” goes out to Pam Moran at Central Lutheran Church for providing her services as our fiscal agent keeping track of all the quarters used for this mission.

“Lighten Your Load” is offered four times a month ... Tuesday evenings and Thursday afternoons during the first and third weeks of the month at the Express Mart Laundromat located on Bridge St. in downtown Chippewa Falls.

**In 2018 we washed/dried 1,295 loads of laundry at a total cost of \$5,500 in quarters. That’s an average of close to \$120 per session.**

**We served a total of 690 guests during 2018, with an average number of 14 guests per session.**

**Due to various community and church grants, as well as individual donations we are able to start 2019 in the black with a balance of \$2,200, which should take us through April and into May 2019.**

**Beyond that we are going to need the help of our community to keep this mission going.**

We had 47 volunteers from the CFMC helping with this mission, providing 306 volunteer hours of service.

More than providing a laundry service, our volunteers have formed numerous relationships with the guests as they visit while waiting for their laundry.

Guests have also requested prayers for their various difficult life situations, as well as prayers for their friends and families in need. Some have even found a faith connection with various CFMC churches.

This mission can be summed up by a comment we received from Kathy, one of our LYL guests ...

*“What a wonderful help this is for me occasionally. It is such a blessing, as it seems when one has money challenges, God’s children always help each other, ‘Love They Neighbor.’ What a perfect example of God’s wishes being done. All the volunteers are so kind and helpful and definitely non-judgmental. God Bless You Always!” – Kathy*

AMEN!

-----  
**\* “Lather With Love” Soap Mission (Feb. 2018)**

This was the first outreach mission we did when CFMC was first started back in 2011. It has become an annual mission for the CFMC.

Back in 2011 we asked the local food pantries what they needed. They told us there was a need for laundry detergent and diapers. We continue to gather soap items, but have since dropped the diapers portion, as they became available from another source.

**In 2018 the CFMC collected 1,347 items for “Lather With Love.” This included 199 laundry soap, 149 dish soap, 524 hand soap, 265 shampoo and 210 miscellaneous health/soap items.**

In addition to the various CFMC churches/non-profit agencies gathering these items, we also received soap donations from Chippewa Valley Street Ministry located in Eau Claire.

These items were distributed to the following local food pantries ...  
Chippewa Falls Salvation Army, Valley Vineyard, CVHS Alternative School, and the Legacy Center.

English Lutheran pantry indicated they were not in need of these items. First Presbyterian pantry distributed their soap items to their guests, as they were collected at their church.

Also, this mission spread to the Bloomer/New Auburn Food Pantry this year. When they heard about it, several churches in the Bloomer/New Auburn area collected soap items for their pantry as well. They gave out around 300 various soaps items to their guests.

-----

**\* Food For Kidz Meal-Packing Mission (May 5, 2018)**

“Food For Kidz” is a mission we have done on occasion in the past. Various packing teams from the CFMC, and the community in general, gathered at Parkview Elementary School on May 5<sup>th</sup> to pack meals for our local food pantries.

**Our goal was to pack 100,000 meals for the local food pantries. The final tally was in excess of 102,000 meals.**

-----  
**\* Soles4Souls Shoe Mission (Sept./Oct. 2018)**

The CFMC once again joined the Soles4Souls outreach mission of the local Methodist Churches. This mission was spearheaded by Ken Froelich and a faithful group of volunteers.

We set a new record this year by gathering 5,700 pounds of shoes ... 2.85 tons. These shoes will be distributed around the world to those in need.

-----  
**-- LOCAL MISSION OUTREACHES WE SUPPORTED IN 2018 --**

We supported various individual church/community missions through volunteers or donations, which included ...

**\* Revive Chippewa Valley – A Community Wide Evangelic Event (April 2018).**

**\* School Supplies/Backpack Giveaway Mission at Valley Vineyard Church (Aug. 2018).** More than 600 backpacks loaded with school supplies were given away at this mission event.

**\* Touched Twice Free Clinic held at Landmark Christian Church (Oct. 2018).** Approximately 300 people were served at this mission event.

**\* Community Homeless Forum sponsored by the Chippewa Co. Council on Homelessness and Hunger (Oct. 2018).**

**\* St. Joe’s Coat & Blanket Drive (Oct. 2018)**

**-- HELPING INDIVIDUALS IN NEED IN 2018 --**

Because of our close contact with the local non-profit agencies, on occasion we get a call to help one individual or family that's in need.

Here are a few individuals/families we were able to help with generous donations from assorted people ...

- \* Tina – Household Items
- \* Violet – Lift Chair
- \* Anonymous Family – Refrigerator
- \* Tim & Beverly – Household Items
- \* Anonymous Family – Rocking Chair, Dresser. Xmas Gift For Kids
- \* Les – Mattress
- \* Eric - Mattress

**-- CFMC GUEST SPEAKERS IN 2018 --**

\* **Valerie Brooks**, Director of Youth and Family Ministry at Faith Lutheran Church.

**SUBJECT:** Children, Youth and Family Committee of the Chippewa County Health and Human Services Group is looking for volunteers. Their mission is: Hope, Help, Healing when dealing with individuals and families in distress.

-----

\***Brady Zwiefelhofer**, Thrivent Financial Associate.

**SUBJECT:** Encouraged churches and non-profit agencies to use Thrivent Action Teams and Funds for their community mission projects.

-----

\* **Dave Gordon & Paul Oppedahl**, Legacy Community Center Board of Directors.

**SUBJECT:** Update on progress of Legacy Center. Emergency Food Pantry is set up. Also looking at moving Agnes' Table to the Legacy Community Center. It will be a central place where those in need can be connected to the appropriate agency/agencies for assistance. **Their overall mission is ...**

**“We Care – We Listen – We Connect.”** They are currently shooting for an opening date of April 1<sup>st</sup>.

-----

\* **Jeni & Blythe**, Family Support Center

**SUBJECT:** Summary of services ... Wish List ... How Can CFMC help?

This past year they provided free and confidential services for 300+ sexual abuse/assault cases and 400+ victims of domestic abuse.

This past year they also provided emergency housing for 30 people, but are currently out of funds for this mission. They also provided us a Wish List of needed items. For more information you can check their website ...

**[www.familysupportcentercf.com](http://www.familysupportcentercf.com)**

-----  
\* **Becky Gordon**, Volunteer Service Manager, Marshfield Clinic Health System.

**SUBJECT:** Recruitment of Chaplains and volunteers for the New Marshfield Medical Center in Eau Claire.

There are numerous volunteer opportunities for ages 15 and up. Some of the jobs include Crafters/Sewers, Book Cart, Cafeteria Attendant, Patient Companion, Emergency Dept. Assistant, Patient Escort, Gift Shop, Information Desk/Greeter, Mailroom, Surgical Waiting Area Assistant, Women's Health/Outpatient Waiting Area Assistant, and Chaplains.

**For more information you can contact Becky ... 715-858-8259 ... email: [gordon.rebecca@marshfieldclinic.org](mailto:gordon.rebecca@marshfieldclinic.org)**

-----  
\* **Josh Gibson**, Founder of "Now What ... Ministries"

**SUBJECT:** Helping People Re-Enter Their Community After Jail and/or Substance Abuse Treatment.

Josh's ministry works with local non-profit agencies to direct those in the re-entry process to shelter, employment, transportation, groceries, warm meals and clothing, as well as recovery services.

**For more information about this ministry, you can contact Josh by email ... [nowwhatministriesdunn@gmail.com](mailto:nowwhatministriesdunn@gmail.com)**

-----  
\* **Karen Anderson**, Volunteer Coordinator, Legacy Community Center.

**SUBJECT:** Legacy Community Center Update.

Karen provided a list of more than 20 ways volunteers can help at the Legacy Center.



As of October they have served more than 480 households with food and/or directions to emergency services.

Also, more than 9,000 meals have been served at the new Agnes' Table located at the Legacy Center. It also serves as a gathering spot whenever they are open to enjoy a cup of coffee, water or milk and interact with others.

**For more information about volunteering at the Legacy Community Center you can contact them at ... [listen@legacycommunitycenter.org](mailto:listen@legacycommunitycenter.org)**

-----  
\* **Michelle Flint**, CareLink Coordinator.

**SUBJECT:** January 2019 Fund-Raiser For CareLink

Funds are almost depleted for the distribution of Emergency \$25 Gas Cards. Because this is a ministry sponsored by all Chippewa Falls Churches, it was decided we join in with this Fund-Raiser in January, as we are able.

**For more information about CareLink you can contact Michelle ... [michelle.flint@charter.net](mailto:michelle.flint@charter.net)**

**-- CFMC MEMBERS HONORED IN 2018 --**

\* **Mike Cohoon – “United Way Senn Spirit Award” honoring his professional excellence in the non-profit sector.**

Mike has been involved in a number of mission projects which include Tiny Houses/Hope Village, Touched Twice Ministries, Food For Kidz, Revive Chippewa Valley and numerous other faith-based mission projects.

A well deserved honor. Congratulations Mike!

\* **Randy Walker – Jefferson Award honoring his work with Barnabas Ministries and Barnabas Table.**

Barnabas Table offers a free meal for those in need. Meals are served every Monday, Wednesday and Friday evening. They average about 20 – 30 people for every meal. Which works out to 156 meals per year, serving approximately 4,000 people at those meals.

A huge “Thank You and Congratulations” to Randy and Pat Walker for their amazing Barnabas Ministry.

-----

-- **THANK YOU!** --

**2018 was an Amazing Year for the Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition.  
We all look forward to what the Holy Spirit has in store for us in 2019.**

**“Thank You” to All of You for helping to make the Chippewa Falls  
Mission Coalition The Hands, Feet and Hearts of Christ!**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Tom Drehmel  
Chippewa Falls Mission Coalition

***“Whenever you possibly can, do good to those who need it. Never tell your  
neighbor to wait until tomorrow if you can help them now.” – Proverbs  
3:27***